

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-29 are currently pending in this application.

Election Under 35 U.S.C. § 121

The Examiner has stated that the application contains claims directed to the following distinct inventions:

Group (I) – Embodiment of Figs. 1-3;

Group (II) – Embodiment of Figs. 4-5;

Group (III) – Embodiment of Figs. 6-7; and

Group (IV) – Embodiment of Figs. 8-9.

In order to advance prosecution of this case, without prejudice to its rights to file divisional applications, Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group (I), consisting of claims: 1-8, 14-17, 22-24, and 29, with traverse.

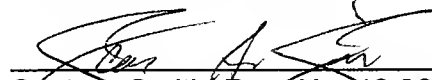
Applicant believes that at least claims 1-8, and 14-17 are generic to all Species (I) – (IV), because claims 1-8, and 14-17 read on all the Figures 1-9. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of and withdrawal of restriction requirement/species election.

If the Examiner have any comments or suggestions regarding the claims to be examined, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Conclusion

For the reasons that both the restriction and species elections are believed to be erroneous, withdrawal of the requirements, examination and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott A. Smith, Reg. No. 46,067
Polster, Lieder, Woodruff & Lucchesi, L.C.
12412 Powerscourt Drive, Suite 200
St. Louis, Missouri 63131
Tel: (314) 238-2400
Fax: (314) 238-2401
e-mail: ssmith@patpro.com